Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources illuminating aspects of this most well-known Presidential speech

References to the

Hanover Junction Photograph

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection
(Formerly described as: Binder 2, p. 18-28)

Lincoln Era Just Beginning For Historians

Tons of Evidence Available but Experts to Study It Are Scarce

By WARD CANNEL
NEA Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK (NEA) — The fallow period is almost over and within three years America will begin to get its first good look at the era of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War.

In the words of Philip Van Doren Stern, one of the nation's leading historians, "It takes about 100 years for the truth about an event to be allowed out. We are just beginning to research this period."

Over and above the tons of texts, novels, scripts, movies and articles about the Civil War, there are tons and tons of original documents that have never been opened.

Untold Wealth

Court-martial briefs, cases of espionage, memoirs, diaries, diplomatic messages lie yellow and dusty in the nation's archives with the ban of a century on them.

And now that the ban is about to be lifted, Stern said, we have only about 15 historians who are prepared to begin the job. Most of these men are well into middle age and in recent years only two younger men have joined the ranks.

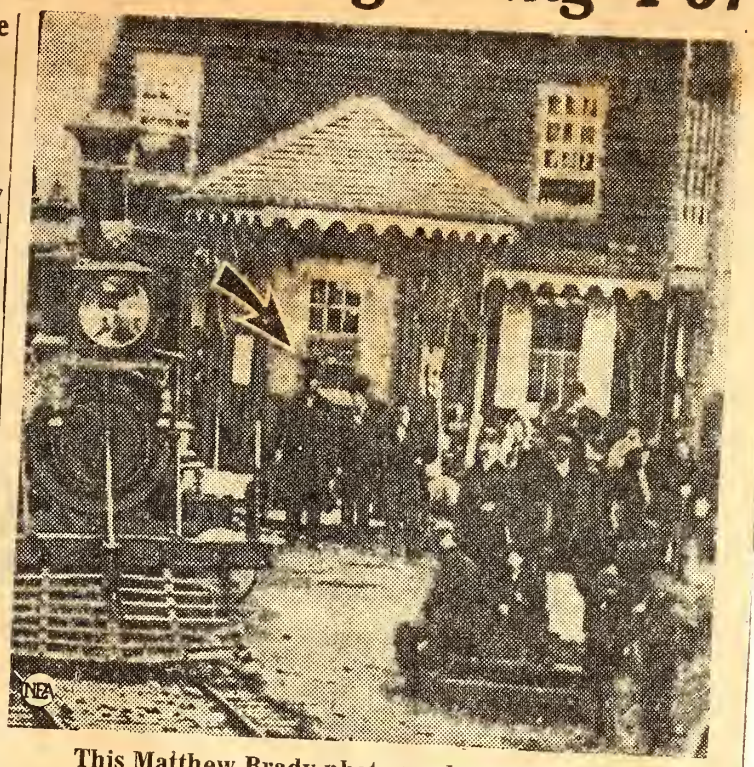
"Young students of history," Stern said, "are not encouraged to go into the Civil War because it is a big job. Instead they are directed into a smaller, more specialized aspect. No one man can do the Civil War. It involved 30 million people all over the earth in every area of activity and thought."

There is, however, hardly any time in American history that has been given as much serious fiction treatment as Lincoln's.

Stern analyzed it this way: "Of all the U. S. presidents, Lincoln was the greatest master of words and that's enough to interest any writer.

First Modern War

"The Civil War itself was the first modern war. For the first time in history there was the re-



This Matthew Brady photograph, unearthed from the National Archives only a few years ago, may be the only picture of Abraham Lincoln (arrow) en route to Gettysburg in 1863. Scene was Hanover Junction, Pa. It typifies new Lincoln data just coming to light.

job of researching the new Lincoln and Civil War documents.

Long Slow Process

"Think of what we could do with 100 students who were properly trained."

That is the rub. To train an historian is a slow process that must be done again with each man. Aside from learning the techniques of research, each man must build a memory bank. There are isolated names that appear and must be tied to events. There are unsigned documents requiring handwriting identification. There is a complete dead climate to know.

Stern shook his head:

"And by the time the historian stores all of it in his memory bank, his memory begins to fail, he dodders, he dies and all is lost."

"Despite the heat of the mid-day sun," New Delhi reported, "citizens turned out in hundreds of thousands to welcome, Chinese Prime Minister Chou En-lai on his recent arrival in India for a visit."

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"Young students of history," Stern said, "are not encouraged to go into the Civil War because it is a big job. Instead they are directed into a smaller, more specialized aspect. No one man can do the Civil War. It involved 20 million people all over the earth in every area of activity and thought."

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Stern analyzed it this way: "Of all the U. S. presidents, Lincoln was the greatest master of words and that's enough to interest any writer.

First Modern War

"The Civil War itself was the first modern war. For the first time in history there was the repeating rifle, aerial strategy, submarine action. For the first time, troops dug in rather than move at each other in lines of battle. And it was a terribly bloody war."

Military science, however, made great strides. Civil War battle plans, techniques and strategies are studied at most war schools, Stern said. "And General Patton in World War II was the military descendant of General Sheridan."

For the most part, however civilization learns slowly from its own history.

"But it's the only way we have of learning," Stern said. It was too bad—but perfectly understandable—that young students were hard to convert to the school of history.

It is the orphaned child of research in this country," he said. "There are only a handful of people who can support themselves on the fruits of their research. Foundation grants for history are meager. And a man has to eat—even if he's an historian."

The dearth of historians, he said, would make a long and difficult job of researching the new Lincoln and Civil War documents.

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issued .

Close Railway Lincoln Rode To Gettysburg

GETTYSBURG, Pa., Dec. 31 (AP) —Passenger service came to an end without ceremony today on the Western Maryland branch railroad which carried President Lincoln to Gettysburg in 1863.

A combination passenger-mail train arrived 10 minutes late on the last regular 50-mile run from Baltimore.

Freight service will continue, but much of the rolling stock will be transferred to other roads.

The line has operated between Gettysburg and Baltimore by way of Hanover since December 16, 1858.

Burgess Fred G. Pfeffer and a few other citizens were on hand to greet railroad officials and 12 passengers riding the train. Private Samuel V. Luyster, 36, of Matawan, N. J., obtained special leave from Fort Meade, Maryland, to make the journey because his grandfather rode the same train to Gettysburg 80 years ago.

Phila Record 1-1-48

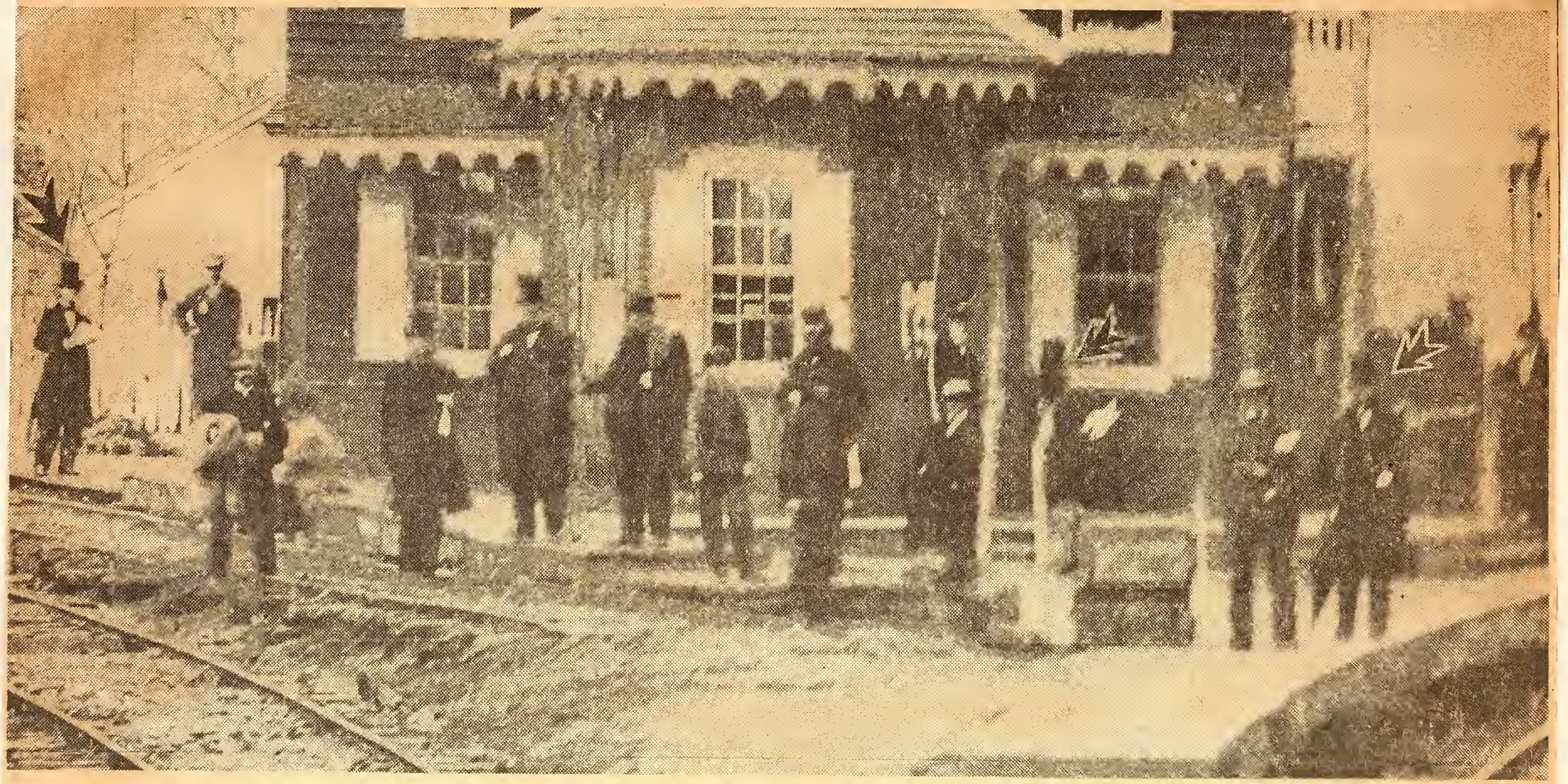
Dr. Warner - You probably know about this
Frank Weed

LIFE
Financial
Night Clubs

The Washington Post

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1952

LOCAL N
Classified Adv
Sports



Which one is Lincoln? This picture was taken on November 18, 1863, at Hanover Junction, Pa., the day before Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address. This print was made from a negative in the Library of Congress collection by the famed Civil War Photographer Mathew Brady. It depicts the same general scene that a previously published one showed, and in which a figure identified by some as Lincoln has been discerned. In this photograph there are three figures (arrows) who resemble him. One authority argues that Lincoln might not have been in the picture at all.

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Three 'Lincolns' Fan Old Photograph Controversy

By Paul Sampson
Post Reporter

Three "Lincolns" in one photograph should help prove that one "Lincoln" in another photo is not genuine, a Library of Congress photo expert believes.

He is Hirst Millhollen, curator of photographs at the Library. Millhollen yesterday released a photograph taken at Hanover Junction, Pa., that shows three men who look like Lincoln.

Millhollen cites this picture to back his belief that the man in a picture taken at the same place and released last month is not Lincoln.

"I've been here 28 years," Millhollen said a little ruefully, "and no one picture has stirred up so much talk as that Hanover Junction picture that got all the publicity last month."

Millhollen says the blown-up detail of his picture, which was taken at a distance, shows three figures in stovepipe hats that look like Lincoln. He contends that any tall man in a stovepipe hat will look somewhat like Lincoln when the picture is taken at a distance, as both the "new" picture and the one publicized last month were.

Meanwhile, one of the first persons, if not the first person, who thought she saw Lincoln in the Hanover Junction photograph is working to settle the question of identification once and for all. She is Miss Josephine Cobb, chief of the Still Pictures Division of the National Archives.

"We have a group of really good experts working on the picture," she said. "We are nearing a definite identification—but how near depends upon how much evidence the Archives will be satisfied with."

Miss Cobb declined to say whether the investigation tends to prove or disprove that the figure is Lincoln. She added, "I won't even tell my boss which way we are leaning."

Besides the photograph with three "Lincolns," Millhollen rummaged around in the Library's large file of Civil War photographs and came up with some other negatives that back up his view.

One shows the same "Lincoln" in the original Hanover Junction picture. That is, the tall man carrying the umbrella and the satchel. In this picture, the tall man is partially obscured by a man standing near him.

"Why," Millhollen asks, "would a photographer like Mathew Brady, who got his reputation as a portrait photographer, take a picture of the President from such a distance and why would he have him standing partly behind someone else?"

Millhollen and Milton Kaplan of the prints and photographs division of the Library, also point out that the tall man in the photographs doesn't stand a head above the rest of the group as Lincoln always does in group pictures. They also point out that in other Brady photographs of Lincoln, the President occupies a prominent place.

But in digging around in his negative files, Millhollen also has found some pictures that provide a little ammunition for that group that says this is Lincoln in the Hanover Junction pictures.

One of these negatives, which was printed for the first time last week, is a fairly long shot of the same station and shows another camera set up near the station.

This may mean, the pro-Lincoln group argues, that close-up shots of the group at the station, including Lincoln, were taken. So far, negatives taken by this camera have not turned up. But there is no reason that they won't, the group rather hopefully contends.

But back comes Millhollen to say that it was too dark for any pictures to have been made of Lincoln while he was at Hanover Junction. The curator maintains that the pictures that were taken were made early in the afternoon of a group that was waiting for the President to appear for ceremonies scheduled for the junction.

These ceremonies never came off because Lincoln arrived too late and the dignitaries who were to arrive from Pennsylvania to participate in them suffered some sort of a mishap on the way and didn't appear, Millhollen says. He adds that no famous people have been identified in any of the pictures—as they would have been if Lincoln had stopped there and been photographed.

To counter this argument, Thomas Norrell, 9710 Bristol ave., Silver Spring, Md., who is one of those who thinks the pictures do, indeed, show Lincoln, last Sunday journeyed to Hanover Junction and took pictures at 3:30, the hour he says Lincoln was at the junction.

"The shadows in my picture are at exactly the same angle as those in the one taken in 1863," he said.

Millhollen, though, sticks to his idea that Lincoln didn't arrive at the junction until 5:30 p. m.—when it was too dark to take pictures in those days.

One thing nobody is arguing much about now is that the pictures actually were taken in Pennsylvania and not Virginia, and that they were taken the day before the Gettysburg Address. The big question still is unanswered:

"Is it Lincoln?"

?-?-?-?— Western Maryland Railway officials have unearthed from the national archives in Washington what may be the only picture in existence of Abraham Lincoln on the way to his Gettysburg address. Lincoln students contend there are no such pictures. The one above, an 1863 photo was made at Hanover Junction, Pa., it has been established. Followers of Lincoln lore believe the tall figure in the stovepipe hat is Lincoln.

21

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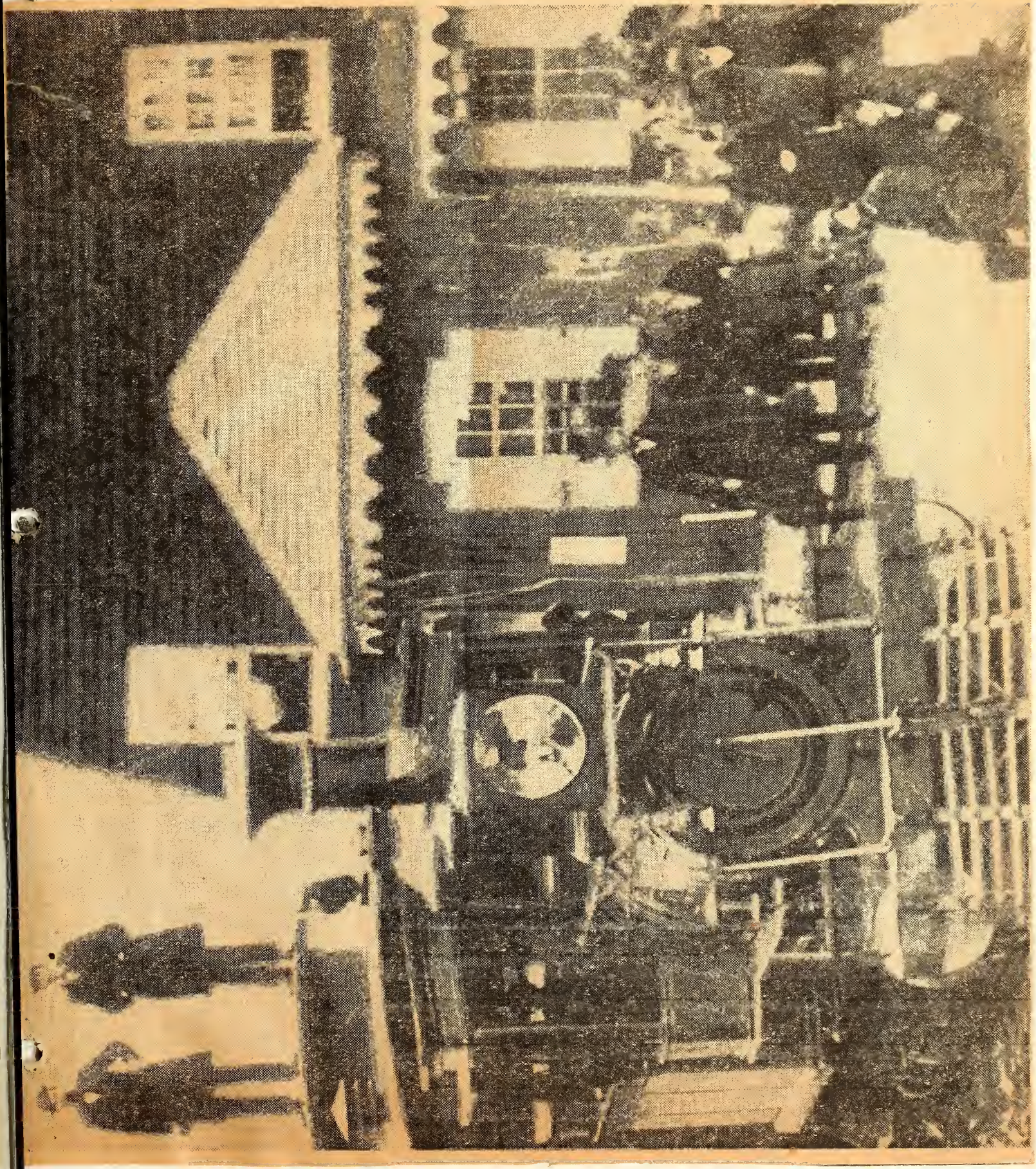
PITTSBURG
POST GAZETTE



COURIER-JOURNAL, Oct 20, 1952 EDITORIAL
Thomas M. Galey Owensboro

Controversy Burns, But Ninety Years Late

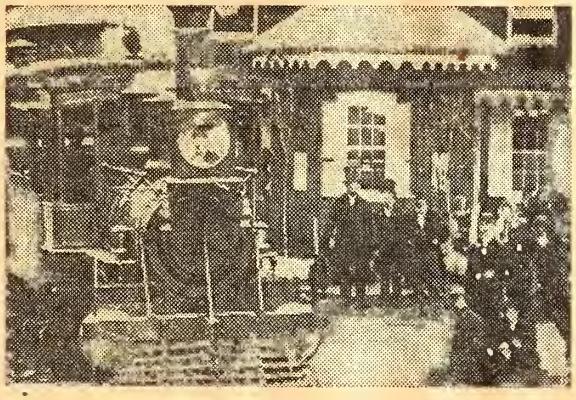
OUR distinguished colleague, the *New York Herald Tribune,* emerges into the last stretch of the presidential campaign with a ferocious controversy on its hands.

The *Herald Tribune* has taken a belligerent's part in the campaign and fought the good fight for General IKE with sharp tongue and ready pen. Such response as it has stirred from its readers however has been polite, temperate and—in a word—tepid. The storm of argument, rebuttal, contradiction and reproof now agitating its letters column concerns no current crisis. It is occasioned by the publication of a photograph which may or may not be of LINCOLN on his way to Gettysburg, and of an editorial mildly saluting this historic find.

Immediately thousands of experts on Gettysburg, LINCOLN, and MATTHEW BRADY (the photographer) appear to have taken fire. The photograph, admittedly, is not a gem of the BRADY collection. The railroad engine, the building, the scattered crowd are poorly placed and focussed. And nobody could recognize with certainty the tall, ungainly man in the silk hat who stands in the background. But non-experts in LINCOLN lore will incline to agree with the *Herald Tribune* that if this is a LINCOLN photograph, it pleasantly fills in a gap in his photographic history.

The experts, however, will have none of it. The director of the Brady Museum scorns it. Two other BRADY admirers announce that identifications in the picture are of the wrong station, the wrong railroad, the wrong date and even the wrong season. Another writes to remark that the tracks on which the train is standing are coming away from Gettysburg, not going to it, and still another says that locomotives of this type weren't running in Pennsylvania in 1863.

Reading all this with awe, we can only congratulate ourselves on avoiding so combustible a topic. Our readers assail us fiercely enough on opinions which seem of relatively minor importance. What they'd do to us if we stuck our necks out on the matter of a disputed LINCOLN photograph we can't imagine. But the *Herald Tribune's* plight is some indication.



Lincoln in the stovepipe hat?

Lincoln Scholars Split On Photo's Authenticity

A previously unpublished picture, possibly that of Abraham Lincoln on his way to deliver the Gettysburg address, started a controversy yesterday among historians and Lincoln experts.

The picture, published in The Inquirer, was unearthed from the National Archives in Washington. It was filed under "Hanover Junction, Va.," but Western Maryland Railway officials said the station was actually Hanover Junction, Pa., about 18 miles from Gettysburg.

The Rev. Melville Brooks Gurley, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Bala-Cynwyd, grandson of Lincoln's pastor and an authority on Lincoln, thinks the picture is that of Lincoln and some of his party.

LORANT DISAGREES

Stefant Lorant, collector of Lincoln photographs and the author of two books on the subject, doesn't think so.

Lorant, reached at his home in Lenox, Mass., said he thought he had copies of every photograph of Lincoln.

"There are exactly 100 of them," he said, adding that some historians had thought the number was 24, but that subsequent investigation showed duplications.

Historians agree that the best account of the trip from Washington to Gettysburg is in the diary of John Hay, Lincoln's assistant secretary later to become Secretary of State.

Describing the trip, which started about noon Nov. 18, 1863, Hay wrote, "On our train were the President, Seward, Usher and Blair; Nicolay and myself; Mercier and Admiral Reynaud; Bertinatti and Capt. Isola and Lt. Martinez and Cora; Mrs. Wise; Wayne MacVeagh; McDougal of Canada, and one or two others."

Nothing of a photographer, unless he was included in the one or two others. And nothing of any stops at Hanover Junction for a posed photograph.

Lorant asks: "Why should the President of the United States be carrying an umbrella if he just happened to get out of a train to stretch his legs?" No one else is carrying an umbrella.

PRESIDENT'S GUARD

Where are the men guarding the President? It was a time in Lincoln's life that feeling was running high, and these men didn't let the President out of their sight. Lorant suggests that if the picture is that of Lincoln, one of the two men standing top the train bears some resemblance to pictures of Allan Pinkerton.

If it is a Lincoln photograph, who are the two men standing beside Lincoln — both young men? Could they have been the mustached Hay, years old at the time, and Robert Todd Lincoln, who was 20? (The President's son, Mr. Gurley points out, was attending Harvard in 1863, but could have made the trip with Lincoln. Mr. Gurley said he has read that Robert Lincoln did make the trip.)

JUDGMENT RESERVED

Most historians were reserving judgment on the picture.

Professor Roy F. Nichols, dean of the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania, said, "The man in the picture is a tall man with a beard and a silk hat. Lincoln was a tall man who wore a silk hat. It doesn't necessarily follow that the man in the photograph is Lincoln."

Dr. James A. Barnes, professor of American History at Temple University, agreed.

"It will take a lot of research in the National Archives before this picture may be added to the small collection we know to exist of Lincoln," he said.

PHILA INQUIRER OCT 13 52

Aid's Daughter Identifies Lincoln in Controversial Photo

[Times-Herald Staff Photo]

Helen Nicolay, daughter of Lincoln's secretary and biografer, is shown giving researcher Russell W. Bowman assurance that the Civil War President appears in a long-forgotten photo snapped at Hanover Junction, Pa., as he was en route to make Gettysburg address.

Gettysburg Trip to Be Marked by Pageant

Some "experts" on Lincoln lore are talking thru old stovepipe hats, the daughter of the Great Emancipator's personal secretary declared yesterday.

Helen Nicolay, author of more than a score of books on Lincoln and other historical figures, took a long look at a controversial photograf snapped at the Hanover Junction, Pa., railroad station and said the tall, stooped figure in the center "definitely" is the Civil war leader.

Her positive identification of the 16th President corroborated the findings of Russell W. Bowman, of Seven Valleys, Pa., on the eve of a pageant tomorrow at the historic Gettysburg battlefield.

The pageant, "Mr. Lincoln Goes to Gettysburg," will feature Broadway actor Ray Middleton in the top role. The event, sponsored by the Western Maryland railroad as part of its centennial celebration, is the cause of all the hubbub over the picture.

Brady Print Exhumed

The railroad exhumed the dusty Matthew Brady print from the National Archives to give the occasion a little sparkle.

But then the sparks really began to fly.

Josephine Cobb, chief of the still picture section of Archives, admitted the print had been filed under the wrong date and wrong location.

Both errors were corrected following research.

But when Bowman, an adult education instructor in the District schools, suggested that the picture showed Lincoln en route from Washington to Gettysburg, Nov. 18, 1863, a number of pet theories about the President's trip went up in smoke.

Bowman insisted he had proof that the Brady photo showed Honest Abe taking a constitutional while waiting to change trains at Hanover junction before resuming the ride to Gettysburg, 32 miles westward.

Picture Misfiled

He said the picture had been misfiled under an August date, but that the overcoats showed the weather must have been chilly—more like November.

Besides that, the Union uniforms worn by soldiers grouped in the photo proved Brady snapped the shutter in Blue territory. The picture had been filed under Hanover Junction, Va., which doesn't even exist.

Neither Bowman nor Miss Nicolay could figure how Union troops were supposed to get down into the Old Dominion at that time.

Miss Nicolay had no doubts about the picture all the experts were fussing over.

Her bright 86-year-old eyes flashed as she declared that "from all the pictures that I have seen of Lincoln, I should say definitely that it is his figure." Then she added, "I don't know who else it could be."

Miss Nicolay, who was secretary to her father, John G. Nicolay, and John Hay while the two Presidential assistants were writing their monumental 10-volume history of Lincoln, said she does not "claim to be an expert."

But she emphasized that she's spent a lifetime studying the subject.

Bowman, who is working for his M.A. degree at George Washington university, said the picture upsets the old argument that Lincoln wasn't photografed on the way to his famed address.

He said the President had to get off at Hanover Junction because of the train change and that the picture was snapped when a train bearing Gov. Curtin of Pennsylvania was delayed by a minor accident.

Name Changed

Bowman's home town was known as Hanover Junction in those days and was an important switching point on the old North Central railroad, now the Pennsylvania.

The researcher said the Brady original and a photo snapped at Hanover Junction near the end of the century established the correct site. The 1863 photo shows four saplings, and in the later picture the trees appear as full-grown maples in the same settings.

Added evidence that Lincoln paused at the little Pennsylvania hamlet is provided by the appearance of a crowd off to one side. Bowman said the throng "indicates that something big was going on."

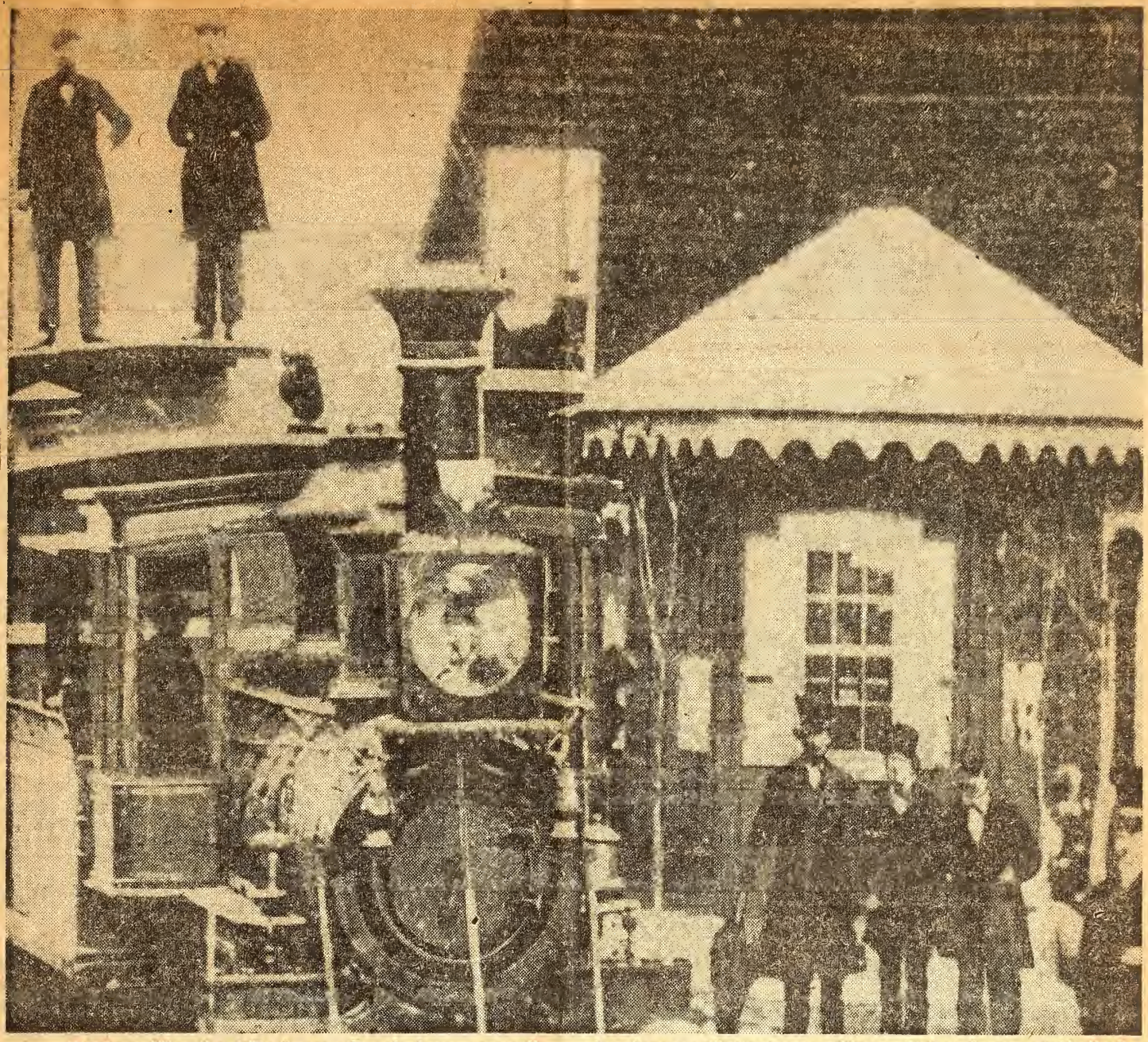
That, of course, was the brief stop of the nation's chief executive, who was to make history the following day as he dedicated the Civil war shrine.

Still punishing a typewriter despite her advanced years, Miss Nicolay said she would be unable to attend the big occasion tomorrow afternoon because of previous commitments.

But several thousand weekenders are expected to break Gettysburg out at the seams as the pageant closes the seventh annual "Pennsylvania Week."

1952

TIMES-HERALD—*WASHINGTON, D. C.*—FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17,



Western Maryland Railway officials have unearthed in the National Archives in Washington this picture which they believe is the only one in existence of Abraham Lincoln (tall figure in stovepipe hat) on the way to make his famous Gettysburg address. It has been established that this photo was taken in 1863, at Hanover Junction, Pa. Some students of Lincoln lore say no pictures were made of his trip to the battlefield. (AP Wirephoto)

Photo May Show Lincoln During Gettysburg Trip

BALTIMORE, Oct. 11 (AP).—The Western Maryland Railway, in the process of celebrating its 100th birthday, has unearthed from the National Archives in Washington a picture that may give Lincoln scholars reason to reconsider one of their theories.

It has been pretty well agreed among them that the Great Emancipator was never photographed either at or on his way to Gettysburg, Pa., the scene of his most famous address.

STOVEPIPE HAT

But a picture taken in 1863 by Matthew Brady, Civil War photographer and Lincoln portraitist, is being billed by some lovers of Lincoln lore as a shot of a group that includes the President at Hanover Junction, Pa., en route to Gettysburg.

John Lippi, Jr., of Gettysburg, Lincoln hobbyist, says he is certain the tall figure in a stovepipe hat is the famous President.

The picture shows a train at the junction in what is apparently the fall of the year, judging by the leafless trees.

Shadows indicate the time of day would be shortly before sunset. The season and hour jibe, since Lincoln made his famous speech on Nov. 19 and would have passed through Hanover Junction about 5 P. M. on the 18th, according to records of his trip.

The figure in the picture holds an unopened umbrella, such as Lincoln frequently carried. Historians say that there was rain early in the day of the trip to Gettysburg, with clearing later.

FILED WRONG

The tall man in the photo has side whiskers like Lincoln wore, and the fact that the picture was made at all by the famed Brady would indicate an event of some importance in Hanover Junction history.

Miss Josephine Cobb, chief of the National Archives, Still Pictures Division, isn't so sure.

She does agree, however, that the picture was filed in the wrong category for years.

In 1950, Miss Cobb became suspicious of the filing which labeled the shot as a Hanover Junction, Va., picture. She noted some of the men were wearing items of Northern Army uniform and didn't think that likely in that part of Virginia, which in 1863 was well inside Confederate lines. Hanover Junction was approximately 20 miles north of Richmond.

TAKEN IN PENNA.

A check of landmarks showed the picture actually was taken in Pennsylvania.

On Saturday, Oct. 18, the Western Maryland Railway will stage a pageant and re-enactment of the Gettysburg Address. The railroad carried Lincoln part way to the battlefield site for his oration.

Eurovita

February 15, 1929.

Memorandum of items in connection with trip of President Lincoln to Gettysburg, November 18th, 1863.

Source*-Valuation Department:-

THE HANOVER BRANCH RAILROAD - Hanover Junction to Hanover, was opened for operation - October, 1852.

GETTYSBURG RAILROAD - Hanover to Gettysburg, was opened for operation - December 16, 1858.

These two railroads were consolidated to form - HANOVER JUNCTION, HANOVER AND GETTYSBURG RAILROAD COMPANY - October 30th, 1874.

Source - Jacob Grant Eckert, son of John Eckert, Conductor of "Lincoln Special".

1. My Father was born - September 24th, 1830, Hanover, Pa.
2. My Father died - October 5th, 1900.
3. He stated to me that he had never done any other work in his life except railroad work, and worked as brakeman, conductor (at time of Lincoln's trip) and later as Yardmaster at Hanover, but no dates are available. He had left the railroad service several years before his death in 1900 due to inability to work as Conductor or Yardmaster.
4. Father told me of this trip many times up until his death from as early as I can remember.

Source - Superintendent records and confirmed by Jacob Grant Eckert.

1. Jacob Grant Eckert - born May 30th, 1865.
2. Entered service as messenger - 1877.
3. Fireman - 1879.
4. Extra Engineer - 1881.
5. Extra Brakeman - November 3, 1886.
6. Freight Conductor - November 1, 1888.
7. Passenger Conductor - April 4th, 1893.
8. Was 35 years old and married at time of his Father's death.

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1. Henry Sweester Burrage in his "Gettysburg and Lincoln" states that the special train left Washington at noon, Wednesday, November 18th,1863, and arrived at Gettysburg late the same afternoon.

2. Orton H. Carmichael in his "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address" states that the special train left Gettysburg for Washington at 6:00 P.M., Thursday, November 19th, 1863.

THE LINCOLN GROUP OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Room 200, 777 14th St., N.W.,
Washington 5, D.C.

18 November 1952.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

These are some reasons why certain members of a discussion panel of members of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia do not believe the "Tall Man" shown in the much-publicized Hanover Junction pictures, found mislabeled in an old collection of War Department glass negatives now stored in Archives, is Mr. Lincoln.

The train shown in the picture has only two coaches; Mr. Lincoln's train had four coaches. The train is not headed toward Gettysburg, but is headed south toward Baltimore. Mr. Lincoln's train on the way to Gettysburg carried a number of diplomats, cabinet officials, Army and Navy officers, newspaper men, and the Marine Band. It is not likely that had Mr. Lincoln gotten off the train, he would have been the only person to do so.

It is a small crowd and it is extremely doubtful if any of the distinguished persons from Mr. Lincoln's train are shown in the picture. If this were really Mr. Lincoln, certainly more than such a very few persons would have been present, especially in view of the assemblage of notables on Mr. Lincoln's train.

The alleged "Mr. Lincoln" in the B-83 picture is carrying an umbrella, even though the second story windows are open within just a few feet of him and the sun seems to be shining brightly overhead. Would Mr. Lincoln have carried an umbrella had he merely alighted from the train for a few moments on such a bright, sunny day? It doesn't seem likely, does it?

The second story windows of the frame-building railroad-station just back of the "Tall Man in the Silk Hat" are open and nobody is even taking the trouble to look out of them. Regardless of whom the President of the United States was, <u>any</u> president would have been given more attention, even in that tiny hamlet.

We know of no proof that Mr. Lincoln got off his train at Hanover Junction. Do you know of any old diary, newspaper account, or other record of any kind which will clear up this matter?

During the panel discussion, Miss Helen Nicolay was asked if she recognized her father in any one of the pictures. Her very firm reply indicated that although she could not find her father in the photo, she sincerely believed that the "Tall Man" was none other than the Civil War President on his way to Gettysburg. She was then asked if she recognized anybody else other than Mr. Lincoln, and she replied that she could not identify a single other person in the group, except the "Tall Man."

Not one person shown in the small crowd appearing with "Mr. Lincoln" has been positively identified. True, there are those persons who have sincerely believed that the man on the box car was either Lafayette Baker or Billy Pinkerton.

The position of the "Tall Man" in the picture does not indicate that he is necessarily the center of attention. Actually, he occupies a rather obscure position in the group. Isn't it more likely that if this man really were Mr. Lincoln, he would have been in a more prominent and distinguished position; a position showing more courtesy and respect for the President of the United States? With two photographers present, does it seem right to place the Civil War president at the back of the group?

A few days ago when we took a friend to the Masonic Temple at 13th St. and New York Avenue for a look at the splendid oil painting of B. B. French, who in his capacity as Commissioner of Public Buildings knew Lincoln well, and was associated with both Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, our visitor was startled upon observing alongside the fine old oil painting of B. B. French another likeness in oil surprisingly like Mr. Lincoln. He immediately exclaimed that he had never known that Mr. Lincoln was a member of the Masonic fraternity. It took some little persuasion to convince our guest that the Grand Master of Masons whose picture he was observing was indeed not President Lincoln.

We know that Mr. Lincoln was not the only tall man. We also know that many, many times he would meet someone just as tall as he was and often challenged the other tall man to stand back to back with him to determine who was the taller.

It is extremely commonplace for us to think we recognize a friend, only to be disappointed. Certainly not every tall man who wears whiskers and a high hat is Mr. Lincoln. Very probably the tall man is a governor of some nearby state, or a mayor of some not too distant town, waiting for Mr. Lincoln's train to arrive. It is very difficult to believe that it is really the Civil War President.

Actually there is no proof that these pictures were made in 1863. The glass negatives from which these National Archives pictures were made were transferred to Archives from the War Department. A catalogue or checklist of Brady pictures, so rare that Archives has only a photostat reproduction of it, entitled "List of Photographs and Photographic Negatives Relating to the War For The Union, Now in War Department Library," lists the one with "Mr. Lincoln" standing on the platform, with his back to the building, holding an umbrella in his hand, as No. B-83 and gives the date 1864.

The other Hanover Junction picture, surely made at the same time and same place, showing a number of persons sitting and standing on the front porch of the railway station, is numbered B-360 and dated 1865. Who can say with any degree of definiteness exactly when the pictures were made?

Although these facts and conclusions are not the unanimous conclusion of the entire Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia, we, the undersigned, after a very considerable amount of consideration and study, have recognized these plausible and substantial arguments, and this obvious information, as leading to only one conclusion, and that is, that the "Tall Man" is definitely not Mr. Lincoln. Furthermore we are inclined to believe that the controversial figure is a nearby Governor or Mayor waiting for the arrival of Mr. Lincoln's train.

Members of the fact-finding panel:

		Bruce Catton
Victor M. Birely Vice President The Lincoln Group	E. Leo Andes	~~Col. H.S. Merrick, USA (ret.)~~
	Ralph G. Newman	Capt. Gerald Snyder, USA
Bert Sheldon, Program Chairman The Lincoln Group	Vincent Eaton	~~Baldwin F. Gensler, M.D.~~
	C. Percy Powell	Benjamin P. Thomas
Roy Basler, Ph. D.	~~Thomas Merrell~~	Francis A. Lord, Ph. D.

Wash. Eve Star 11-21-52

10 'Fans' Here Doubt Tall Man In Disputed Photo Is Lincoln

Ten members of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia have signed a statement saying they do not believe the "tall man" in the disputed picture said to have been taken at Hanover Junction, Pa., the day before the Gettysburg address is Lincoln.

Their reasons:

The train in the picture has only two coaches; Mr. Lincoln's had four coaches.

The train is not headed toward Gettysburg, but toward Baltimore.

The crowd is too small for a presidential appearance.

Umbrella in Sunshine.

The alleged "Mr. Lincoln" is carrying an umbrella, although the sun is shining. Would the President have an umbrella in hand in alighting for a few minutes from his special train on a sunny day?

The statement is signed by Victor M. Birely, Bert Sheldon, Roy Basler, E. Leo Andes, Ralph G. Newman, Vincent Eaton, C. Percy Powell, Capt. Gerald Snyder, U. S. A.; Benjamin P. Thomas and Francis A. Lord.

The Lincoln Group held a panel discussion on the picture. Miss Helen Nicolay, daughter of Lincoln's secretary, John G. Nicolay, said she could not recognize her father. But she did believe that the "tall man" was Lincoln.

The dispute over the picture, one of the Brady collection exhibited for a year at National Archives, has continued a surprisingly long time and the Lincoln fans are having a lot of fun out of it. Robert A. Mullen, a fan of old locomotives, expressed his belief that the "tall man" was Lincoln yesterday in a letter on the editorial page of The Star.

Two Others in Tall Hats.

Meanwhile, Hirst Mulhollen, curator of photographs at the Library of Congress, came up with a picture taken at Hanover Junction on the same day showing at least two tall-hatted figures who, he said, could be mistaken for Lincoln.

"Any tall man in a stove-pipe hat looked like Lincoln when photographed from a distance," was his theory.

Social Security Opinions Of Chamber Groups Polled

By the Associated Press

The United States Chamber of Commerce has announced a poll of its member organizations on whether the chamber should support a single social security system for all retired aged.

The outcome of the referendum among local chambers of commerce and trade associations will determine chamber policy in the future. Ballots are to be mailed out about December 1 and there will be a 45-day voting period.

Members will be asked whether they approve:

1. Merger of all the present systems into one which would cover all gainfully employed persons. The merger would involve the Federal Old-Age and Sur-

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Hanover Junction Photograph
[Binder 2, p 18-28]

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